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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Suit

I am an individual that makes a living from computers and computer networks. As such, I have worked around computers, operating systems, and the Internet for over 10 years. I have tried to keep up with the Microsoft antitrust suit over the last several years and I must say I was very optimistic about how the suit was going until recently. Microsoft, in typical fashion, showed their arrogance by trying to buy public opinion, fabricate evidence, and in general avoid the issues and lie about their monopoly practices. After the issues with Judge Jackson and his public comments, it seems as if Microsoft is going to get away with exercising their monopoly power because the Justice department wants to avoid a long drawn out legal process. At this point, it seems that the Justice Department is seeking the path of least resistance and intends to give Microsoft a figurative slap on the wrist and make them promise to be good. In my opinion, this would be tragic. The US Government itself has had assets and information put at risk because of the insecurity and unreliability of Microsoft products. For this and their monopolistic practices, they need to be levied with real punitive action that will have a permanent positive effect on the behavior of this software monopoly. To merely levy fines and extract hollow promises to try to do better from Microsoft is the wrong approach to take. Microsoft needs to either be reorganized or forced to open up their APIs and potentially their source code to foster some competition. They should also be required to void all of the exclusive agreements with computer companies regarding what operating systems and software can be placed on their systems. Microsoft already controls the desktop, the default start page for most people, most of the desktop operating system, and many of the applications used by most people. Would the US Government sole source this many components of any critical infrastructure from the same supplier?

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